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**APPROVAL OF UNDP ASSISTANCE TO A PROJECT OF HONDURAS**

IPF:(1991-1994) $ 12 991 000
(HON/93/006) - Support to the Nutrition and Health Project

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| Date of approval by the AC:[1] | 30 June 1993 |
| Expected duration: | 33 months |
| Proposed executing agency: | Government |
| Government implementing agency: | Division of Planning (Ministry of Health and Social Cabinet Executive Secretariat) |
| Proposed UNDP contribution: | $220 000 Source of funds: IPF |
| Government cost sharing: | $6 541 300 |
| Third-party cost sharing: | $59 400 Source of funds: UNICEF |
| Total UNDP budget: | $6 820 700 |

## Project background

The 5.1 million inhabitants (1991) of Honduras are amongst the poorest in the western hemisphere. Moreover, the implementation of stabilization and Structural Adjustment Programmes has increased the hardships for urban workers and net consumers of food in rural areas, resulting in the first decline in social indicators since 1973. Extreme poverty affects nearly 50 percent of the urban population and 80 percent of the rural population. Sixty percent of the infant mortalities are related to nutritional deficiencies and 46 percent of children under five were considered malnourished in 1990, as opposed to 38 percent in 1987. There are serious concerns about the negative impact of this situation on the poorest families, particularly among the most vulnerable groups consisting of pregnant and nursing mothers and children under five. It should be noted that public health expenditures in Honduras are higher than in countries with similar per capita income (8 percent of the total government expenditures estimated for 1993). However, access to nutrition and health services in the rural areas is well below that of countries with similar development indicators. Alarming HIV/AIDS data, indicates an explosive epidemic with similar propagation trends to those observed in the worst affected countries.

In response, the Government of Honduras (GOH) has launched a two-pronged strategy for poverty alleviation. In the short term, two safety net programmes have been established to prevent further deterioration of the living conditions of the poor: (1) The Honduran Social Investment Fund (Fondo Hondureño de Inversión Social, FHIS), finances labor intensive social and economic infrastructure, social services, and informal sector subprojects; and (2) the Family Assistance Programme (Programa de Asignación Familiar, PRAF), which provides nutritional assistance via food coupons for the most vulnerable groups of the population. Over the medium-term the Government intends to improve living conditions through the implementation of social sector reforms that will seek to: (1) improve policy formulation,

[1] **This Fact Sheet reflects the status of the project/revision at the time it was approved by the Action Committee; modifications to the project/revision may have occurred subsequently.**

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sector management and programme coordination in the social sectors; (ii) increase the efficiency and equity of social sector programmes by shifting resources to Primary Health Care (PHC), basic education, and water supply and sanitation (particularly in rural areas); (iii) strengthen the institutional capacity of social sector line ministries; and (iv) review nutritional assistance programmes to ensure that the most vulnerable groups benefit, that efforts and resources are not duplicated, and that programmes are as cost-effective and efficient as possible.

The requested assistance is part of the broader Government Programme in support of health and nutrition reform which comprises, amongst others, the (US) $25 million Credit Agreement No. 2452-HO, GOH/IDA in support of the Nutrition and Health Sectors, the two previously mentioned safety nets programmes, the UNDP and UNICEF supported National Action Plan for Human Development, Children and Youth and the PAHO global strategy against HIV/AIDS. Additionally, the Government expects to mobilize (US) $29 million through other cooperation projects in support of the proposed strategy.

## Description of project

The immediate objectives of the project are to: (a) increase nutrition indicators through the rationalization and expansion of assistance programmes; (b) strengthen primary health care services, with a particular emphasis on nursing mothers and children in the poorest and most isolated areas; (c) promote a complimentary programme to control the HIV/AIDS epidemic; (d) increase the efficiency of the health care system with an emphasis on specialized medical care; and (e) strengthen the capacity of the SCES for planning, coordination, budgeting and evaluation of Social Programmes.

Project activities will include the provision of support under five modules. They are as follows: (1) Module I: Support to nutritional assistance; (2) Module II: Support to the expansion of health services; (3) Module III: Support to increased conditions; (4) Module IV: Institutional capacity building in the Social Cabinet and the Ministry of Health, with an emphasis on monitoring, evaluation and audit; and (5) Module V: Support to the elaboration of a computerized system of social indicators to follow up and evaluate the national Action Plan of Human Development, Children and Youth.

## Inputs

UNDP and the Government will provide national and international experts; subcontracts for training and studies linked to project, technical and administrative personnel; group and in service training; equipment (computers, a radio-communication system, laboratory implements), office furniture and materials; and miscellaneous costs.

## Financial data

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| Subcontract | 1 037 000 |
| Training | 884 000 |
| Equipment | 2 713 000 |
| Miscellaneous | 279 000 |
| Total | 6 820 000 |

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